(c) whether any study has been made on the likely hike in the existing tariffs in agriculture/rural, industry and domestic sectors; and

(d) the impact of the hike on the price index in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Common Minimum National Action Plan (CMNAPP) for Power recommends no sector paying less than 50 per cent of the average cost of the supply, agriculture tariff not being less than 50 paise/kwh to be brought to 50 per cent of the average cost in not more than 3 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The impact could be determined only after final implementation of the CMNAPP recommendations by the States.

Power break down in the northern region due to dew drop

1415. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the massive power breakdown in the northern region and the national capital was caused by a tiny dew drop on the 400 KV support insulators as per technical evaluation report of NTPC;

(b) the precautions taken to avoid such incidents causing huge loss to exchequer and inconvenience to the people;

(c) how this "support insulator" was different from other similar insulators installed all over the country, which withstand rain, hailstorms and snow etc.; and

(d) whether the enquiry has shown negligance on the part of maintenance staff as a cause of this accident; if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (d) The Committee of Experts' appointed by the Government to enquire into the causes of ' trippings at Dadri Complex of NTPC has reported that the incident on 20th Decembcr, 1996 which resulted in massive power breakdown in the Northern Region was triggered by tripping of the two Inter Connecting Transformers (ICTs), due to flashover on the 400 KV side of the ICTs. The dense fog in Dadri area on the morning of 20th December, 1996, coupled with mist from the cooling tower No. 4 which is in close proximity of the Switch-yard and pollutioin deposit on bus insulators bushing etc., in the yard were collectively responsible for the flashover and subsequent tripping of the two vital ICTs. The Committee also felt that adequate maintenance was lacking and no efforts were made for testing and chemically analysing the pollutants for taking proper preventive measures. The Committee has not fixed the responsibility on any individual but has identified the reasons for the frequent trippings at Dadri Complex Based on the recommendations of the committee. NTPC and Powergrid have been directed to take necessary follow up action.

Short Supply of Power to Small Scale Industries in Gujarat

1416. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electricity is not supplied for 24 hours to small scale industrial units in rural area of Gujarat;

(b) whether the rural feeder lines in that State are getting power supply for four hour only;

(c) if so, whether Government would give suitable directions to the State Government to supply electricity for 24 hours to SSI units in rural areas; and

(d) what remedial measures Government are taking to save the SSI units in the State because of non-supply of electricity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) As per information received from Gujarat Electricity Board, 3 phase power supply through rural feeders is programmed for 10 hours a day and power supply is being given accordingly.

(c) and (d) Supply to various categories of consumers in Gujarat is the responsibility of the Government of Gujarat and Gujarat electricity Board. The supply to various categories of consumers is made taking into consideration the overall power supply position. The priority to be accorded for various category of consumers is also decided by the State Government. The state Government is taking steps to improve power generation including involvement of the private sector in generation.

Dispute between NTPC and DESU

1417. SHRI SANJAY N1RUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether govcrnmen; are aware of acute shortage of power in the capital for the last two months; if"so, the reasons therefore;

(b) what is total power requirement of the capital per months as on date and how that is being met; and

(c) whether it is a fact that apart from theft of electricity, a dispute between NTPC and DESU is attributed to shortage of power supply in the capiial; if so, what immediate steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The energy shortage in the National capital Territory of delhi was 4% and 6.6% during the months of december, 1996 and January, 1997 compared to 1.7% energy shortage during the month of November, 1996. This was due to increased energy requirement during winter season, partial shutdown of HBJ Gas platform for maintenance by ONGC during January, 1997 (resulting in low power generation by Gas based stations in Northern Region) and a number of grid disturbances during the months' of december, 1996 and January, 1977.

(b) The total energy requirement of delhi during January, 1997 was 1212 MU net and the total availability from the Badarpur Thermal Power Station (managed by NTPC), the Central Power Stations of Northern Region besides Delhi's own generation was 1144 MU.

(c) It was decided by Government in October, 1996 that future supply of power by Central Power Sector Utilities should only be against advance payment or irrevocable letter of credit. However, taking into consideration the adverse financial condition of Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU), implementation of this decision was deferred till 31.12.1996 in the case of National capital Territory of Delhi. Since DESU did mot make full payment of current dues of Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) regulation of power to Delhi was enforced on 1 2.1997.The position was again reviewed in a meeting on 10.2.1997 and it was decided to withdraw regulation of power and that the shortfall in payments made by DESU to BTPS and NTPC for the period 1st January, 1997 to 30th April, 1997 will be adjusted against the dues payable by Central Government to NCT of Delhi. The Government of NCT Delhi has given an undertaking for effecting the adjustment and for making full payment of current dues of BTPS and NTPC from 1st Mav, 1997.

Medium capacity private Power Projects in Maharashtra

1418 PROF. RAM KAPSE- Will the PRIMF MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The number of new medium capacity power Projects with Private